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## Will Liberal Senators Derail Efforts?

# Congress Moves to Protect CIA Agents

While the Democrats have been wallowing in "Billygate" and the Congress has been generally in turmoil, something positive, nevertheless, has recently emerged from the House and Senate intelligence committees. They have approved legislation that would begin to extend a cloak of protection to our front-line soldiers overseas, the much-maligned American intelligence agent.

Though there are some minor differences in the versions brought out by each of the panels, the legislation would subject to fines and imprisonment anyone who knowingly identifies to unauthorized persons U.S. "covert" agents for the purpose of impairing America's intelligence operations.

Why is such legislation needed? Because revolutionary U.S. activists—in cooperation with Communist Cuba—have been exposing America's intelligence agents to violence and threats of violence.

Richard Welch may have been the first victim of these "activists." He was the CIA chief of station in Athens, Greece, who was gunned down by terrorists outside his home there on Dec. 23, 1975. He had been murdered after an editor of a local paper had "exposed" him as an agent and then printed his home address. The editor later acknowledged he had received a tip about Welch through an American publication called *CounterSpy*, which relished revealing the identities of CIA personnel.

*CounterSpy* closed for awhile, but the method of endangering the lives of CIA agents by making them vulnerable to murderous leftist gangs was gleefully revived by some of the players once associated with the publication, most notably CIA defector-turned-pro-Communist, Philip Agee. (Agee, for instance, has said, "I approve KGB activities." and "I aspire to be a Communist.")

During the World Youth Festival held in Havana two years ago, William Schaap, a National Lawyers Guild attorney in Washington, D.C., announced from the Havana Libre Hotel the formation of a group that would cooperate in publishing *CovertAction Information Bulletin*, whose primary purpose is to blow the cover of U.S. intelligence agents abroad in precisely the same manner as Welch's cover was blown.

In its premier July 1978 issue, Agee, in a joint statement with his colleagues, explicitly embraced the *CounterSpy* strategy as a means of crippling U.S. intelligence. As Agee stated, there is "an important and vital role to be played by the sort of exposes for which *CounterSpy* had become world-famous. We decided that the dissemination of such information must resume. That *CounterSpy* and its uncovering of CIA personnel and operations around the world were so violently hated by the Agency was our best endorsement."

In a separate article in the premier issue authored solely by Agee, the aspiring Communist told how to ferret out U.S. intelligence agents, and called for "public demonstrations" against those discovered—"both at the American Embassy and at their homes—and, where possible, bring pressure on the new government to throw them out."

Agee condoned—indeed, invited—the use of violence, saying that if peaceful protests don't do the job, "those whom the CIA has most oppressed will find other ways of fighting back."

"Together," concluded Agee, "people of many nationalities and varying political belief can cooperate to weaken the CIA and its surrogate intelligence services, striking a blow at political repression and economic injustice...."

"We can all aid this struggle, together with the struggle for socialism in the United States itself."

That set the "tone" for the magazine, and *CovertAction* and its people have been blowing CIA covers ever since—and imperiling the lives of our intelligence agents. Most recently, as many people are now aware, *CovertAction* editor Louis Wolf—who shared the spotlight with Agee at the World Youth Festival (see picture above)—decided to "expose" our intelligence agents in Jamaica.

In a press conference held July 2 in Kingston, Jamaica's capital, Wolf listed 15 members of the U.S. Embassy whom he described as CIA personnel. During the news conference, he supplied biographical information about those he named, including license plates and unlisted telephone numbers. Within a few hours, this "news" was highlighted in the government-controlled media and mounted on posters by pro-Communist activists who are involved in Prime Minister Michael Manley's reelection effort.

(Manley, whose chances for reelection in a free ballot would be dim, has been strongly cozying up to the Cubans, and last year at the non-aligned

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